



Abandoned Well Closures on Kickapoo Nation

Tej Atili, Water Quality Coordinator, 785-486-2601 x7

The Kickapoo Environmental Office inventoried the wells present on the Kickapoo Nation. With the help of the Farm and Ranch Department, Land Office, Tribal Council Secretary, Roads Department, and tribal members, around 30 abandoned wells were found on the Kickapoo Nation. Nine abandoned wells have been plugged with the assistance of the Kickapoo Roads Department. One well will be cleaned and properly capped, but not plugged as the tribe would like to maintain this well as a potential source of emergency fresh water.



If you have a well and wish to have it closed, please call the Environmental Office. There will be no charge for closing the well. If you would like to keep a well open for future use, but the lid or foundation around the casing isn't adequate, we can assist with securing a lid or cover for the casing to keep contaminants and animals from flowing or falling into the well. Given the terrain throughout this area, locating old wells is very hard and your help and information will allow us to find more open wells which are a serious hazard.

By working together we can make the reservation safer for everyone.

Enter the 2013 Clean Garden Contest!

By Sonny Fee, Solid Waste Coordinator, 785-486-2601 x4

The Environmental Office is having a clean garden contest for residents of the Kickapoo reservation. Contestants must be Kickapoo tribal members to enter. We will have two age brackets to judge: Youngins (ages 12 to 49) and Seniors (ages 50+). Prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners based on who has the most weed-free gardens. If you would like to enter the contest, you must call Sonny at (785) 486-2601 extension 4 or stop by the Environmental Office. Judging will take place on Thursday, August 29.





The Green Clan

This Rez Recycles!

By Sonny Fee, Solid Waste Coordinator, 486-2601 x4

The Environmental Office recently shipped out cardboard bales for the Golden Eagle Casino to Batliner Recycling, a recycling company based in Kansas City. We shipped one load of 40 bales weighing 33,915 pounds! Cardboard is picked up every Tuesday from the tribal programs and casino as well as the 3 recycling trailers available to the community. Kickapoo community members have increased the amount of recycling on the reservation by almost double in the last few months. Feel free to swing by the office and get a pat on the back for increasing the Tribe's recycling!



Fish and Aquatic Vegetation: A Delicate Balance

By Kerry Wedel, Watershed Coordinator, 486-2601 x3

Fish rely on aquatic vegetation for food and cover. Aquatic plants also produce oxygen and provide food for many insects, which are eaten by fish. However, when aquatic vegetation becomes too abundant, problems can occur under certain environmental conditions. Aquatic plants include algae and floating plants as well as rooted plants growing above and below the water surface.



Fish Kill and Algal Bloom
(photo: KS Dept. of Health and Environment)

Adequate levels of dissolved oxygen in a body of water are essential to sustain fish populations. According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, oxygen depletion is the most common cause of fish kills, and low oxygen occurs most often during periods of calm, cloudy, hot weather. In the summer, these kills usually occur early in the morning, when the dissolved oxygen in a pond is at its lowest level. Other causes of fish kills can include chemical spills or other toxic materials entering a water body.

Periodic die-offs of large amounts of aquatic vegetation in a pond or lake, such as occurs after a large algal bloom, can deplete oxygen to a level that threatens fish populations. An algal bloom is the rapid growth of algae that can

be triggered during hot weather along with other favorable conditions, such as an abundant supply of nutrients (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus). Oxygen is consumed by the bacteria that decompose the dead plants. In some extreme instances, fish kills can result.

One way to help control aquatic plants is to control the amount of nutrients they rely on for growth. These nutrients are typically carried to a water body in the water that runs off the land that drains into it (i.e. its watershed) during a rain event. Implementing watershed management practices that increase the amount of rainfall that infiltrates into the soil and thereby reducing the amount of runoff and nutrients reaching a water body can help reduce the occurrence of harmful algal blooms.



The Green Clan

August Only Paint Exchange Program

By Scott Weir, Air Quality Coordinator, 486-2601 x2

Do you have any old partial cans of paint just taking up space and waiting to rust away? If so, chances are that the old paint contains volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) at much higher levels than new paint. When an old can of paint is opened, or the paint is applied to a surface, the VOCs evaporate as the paint dries. That's why old school paint smells a lot more than the new paints that are available today.

The VOCs contribute to air pollution in the same way that gasoline does when it evaporates. The fumes go into the air and react with other chemicals on hot, sunny days to form ozone, which can cause asthma attacks and is generally bad for both plants and animals to breathe.



To help get old paint out of the environment, your Environmental Office is conducting a paint exchange during the month of August. If you have one or two old gallons of paint sitting around, please bring them to the Environmental Office. There is no limit on the amount of paint you drop off, but there is a two gallon limit on the new paint you can receive.

There will be color samples in the Environmental Office for your reference. When you bring in your old paint, you may decide which color(s) you want to order. Orders will be taken during the month of August, and your paint will be delivered in early September.

For additional information, please contact Scott Weir, Air Quality coordinator, at 785.486.2601 ext. 2.



The entire crew at the Kickapoo Environmental Office would like to thank Keary Strube for generously donating 15 acres of wheat straw. The straw will be used to help root seeds down for the Delaware River stream bank stabilization project. Also, kudos to Summer Youth Intern Elijah Tucker for contributing his strong work ethic to the team for the day.

Thank you Keary Strube!



The Green Clan

KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

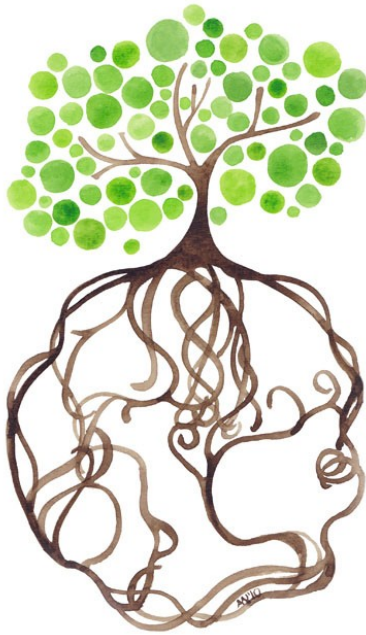
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Working Together for a Better Community!



Radical simply means “grasping things at the root.”

-Angela Y. Davis